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SUBJECT: ANKARA MEDIA REACTION REPORT  
MONDAY, APRIL 19, 2005

THIS REPORT PRESENTS THE TURKISH PRESS SUMMARY UNDER THREE  
THEMES:

HEADLINES  
BRIEFING  
EDITORIAL OPINION  
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HEADLINES

MASS APPEAL

Tuygan: We Are Sorry That Edelman Will Leave Turkey -  
Milliyet 4/17  
Talat Is Second 'President' of 'TRNC' - Sabah  
Denktas: New President Must Protect 'TRNC' Independence -  
Vatan  
Greek Cypriots Not Interested in 'TRNC' Polls - Hurriyet  
4/17  
Talabani, Barzani Disagree Over Northern Iraq Rule - Star  
4/17  
President Bush Wants His Privacy Respected - Sabah 4/17  
Anti-Turkey Cardinal Ratzinger Leads Papal Race - Sabah  
Kissinger: Let's Give the Middle East Back to the Turks -  
Hurriyet

OPINION MAKERS

Rice: Turkey an Example of Islam-Democracy Compatibility -  
Zaman  
U/S Tuygan Returns From US 'Empty-Handed' - Radikal  
Tuygan Conveys Turkish Concerns About PKK Activities -  
Cumhuriyet  
KDP, PUK Members Clash After Talabani Takes Iraq Presidency  
- Cumhuriyet  
Nicosia-EU Strengthen Military Cooperation - Cumhuriyet 4/17  
EU Supports US Project of Moderate Islam - Yeni Safak  
Dervis Strongest Candidate to Lead UNDP - Yeni Safak 4/17  
Kissinger Praises Ottomans - Radikal  
Catholics Watch Vatican's Chimney - Yeni Safak  
Anti-Japan Fury in China - Zaman 4/17

BRIEFING

Rice Shows Turkey As a Model Country: Secretary of State  
Rice presented Turkey as an example that Islam and democracy  
are compatible, Monday papers report. Rice told The  
American Society of Newspaper Editors that there is no  
contradiction between Islam and the Muslim world, and cited  
examples of democracies in places where Muslims are in the  
majority. Rice presented Turkey as one such example: 'You  
have, in Turkey, for instance, a state that is growing  
rapidly with a strong Islamic party in power,' Secretary  
Rice said. She added India as another example in which a  
huge muslim population lives peacefully with other groups in  
a democratic system. Rice concluded that 'there has to be  
hope for the Middle East, that you will get moderate  
political forces that find the right relationship between  
Islam and democracy, that find institutions that accommodate  
both, and therefore the democratic process can be tolerant  
of all peoples.'

Tuygan Concludes Meetings in US: In a press conference held  
after he wrapped up his meetings in Washington, Turkish  
Foreign Ministry Undersecretary Ali Tuygan said both sides  
had reaffirmed good bilateral ties: 'The talks have shown  
that our ties are good. We told our American friends about  
our expectations from them,' Tuygan said. He added that the  
discussions had been 'fruitful,' and that the two sides had  
established an atmosphere of mutual understanding. Tuygan  
emphasized that the tension in US-Turkish relations had been  
caused by the ongoing war in Iraq. 'However,' Tuygan said,  
'both sides reaffirmed our strong alliance and decided to  
leave the past in the past.' Tuygan underlined the recent  
increase in PKK attacks against the Turkish military. He  
said he had informed US officials of Turkish concerns with  
regard to the PKK, the terrorist organization which is using  
northern Iraq as a 'safe haven.' Tuygan said he did not  
expect the US Congress to pass a resolution on 'genocide'  
claims by Armenians. 'If the Congress decides in favor of  
Armenian demands, it will cause disappointment in Turkey, a

country which has had excellent cooperation and a strategic partnership with the US for 50 years,' Tuygan stressed. On Iraq, Tuygan said Turkey wants Iraq to become a peaceful country striving for economic development. Commenting on the resignation of Ambassador Edelman from his post in Ankara, Tuygan said that 'Mr. Edelman is a diplomat for whom we have high respect. We are deeply saddened over his decision to leave Ankara. We are confident that he will continue his good ties with Turkey in his new assignment in Washington.'

A news commentary in "Radikal" claimed that Ankara was disappointed by the 'low-level' reception Tuygan had been given by the Americans in Washington, and regards it as a 'negative signal' before possible visits to the US by FM Gul and PM Erdogan. Unidentified MFA officials said that the American attitude showed once again the strain in bilateral relations. The officials recalled the top-level reception given to former MFA Undersecretary Ugur Ziyal in June 2003 following the rejection by the Turkish parliament of a bill that would have allowed US troops to deploy through Turkey to Iraq. 'The two visits were very different. It seems that the US has nothing to say,' one official said. MFA officials do not expect a meeting between Rice and Gul at the NATO foreign ministers conference in Lithuania April 20-21, according to "Radikal." Sunday's "Milliyet" reports that Ankara has been waiting three weeks for a response to a request for a meeting with President Bush by PM Erdogan during his upcoming visit to the US. The US Government wants Turkish government officials, particularly Erdogan, to make statements stressing the significance of US-Turkish relations, "Milliyet" claims. Monday's "Vatan" claims that Tuygan received 'guarantees' from US officials that President Bush will not use the word 'genocide' when he addresses the Congress on the Armenian issue on April 24.

Gul on March 1 Decision: Foreign Minister Abdullah Gul reportedly told a group of AK Party lawmakers over the weekend that Turkey would have suffered great casualties in Iraq -- even more than the Americans -- if the Turkish parliament had permitted the deployment of Turkish troops to Iraq on March 1, 2003. Turkish troops would have been deployed in one of the most dangerous parts of Iraq, Gul allegedly said, noting that 'from that standpoint, it can be said that the rejection of the decree had been for the good of Turkey.' Gul noted that Kurds who had previously been working for a Kurdish state in northern Iraq have now turned their attention to forming the new government in Baghdad, something that Turkey had wanted all along.

Iraq's Neighbors Meeting Postponed to Late April: A foreign ministers' meeting of the neighbors of Iraq, scheduled for April 18-19, has been postponed for a week, papers report. Iraqi Prime Minister Jafari urged FM Gul to postpone the conference due to continuing preparations for a new cabinet in Baghdad, according to diplomatic sources. Gul agreed to the postponement.

Erdogan Calls Sharon Before Upcoming Visit to Israel: Prime Minister Tayyip Erdogan, who is to visit Israel in early May, called Ariel Sharon to praise Israeli security measures against groups protesting his Gaza pullout plan, "Cumhuriyet" reported over the weekend. Turkish government sources told the paper that Israel will welcome Turkish participation in developments in the Middle East. Meanwhile, Monday's "Milliyet" reports that the Turkish Ministry of Defense is to award the Israeli companies IAI and ELBIT a \$200 million contract for the acquisition of unmanned aircraft before the Erdogan visit to Israel on May 1-2.

Turkey Condemns 'Disrespectful' Act Against Flag: Turkey regrets the 'ugly and disrespectful act' committed against the Turkish flag at a Greek military academy, where Turkish officers were being hosted as part of an exchange program, Monday papers report. On April 12, a crumpled Turkish flag with anti-Turkish slogans written on it was placed into the room where the Turkish students were staying. The incident occurred while visiting Greek FM Molyviatis was discussing ways to enhance Greek-Turkish relations with FM Gul. The Turkish officers returned to Turkey on April 13. The Greek Ground Forces Commander and Defense Minister called their counterparts in Turkey to convey their apologies for the incident, urging Ankara not to 'exaggerate' what took place. Turkey, however, has called for an official apology from Greece, and has asked that those responsible be punished. Greek Foreign Minister Petros Molyviatis said an official apology would be issued to Ankara if it can be determined that such an incident took place. The Greek Land Forces Command promised to dismiss any students found guilty of desecrating the Turkish flag.

Turkish Military Operations Continue Against PKK: 33 terrorists have been killed in Turkish military operations against the outlawed PKK in Sirnak during the past two weeks. One other terrorist surrendered to security forces,

according to a statement released by the Sirnak Governor's Office on Friday. The security forces destroyed large amounts of weapons, explosives, and food belonging to the terrorist organization, according to the statement.

**Anti-US Demonstration in Adana:** A group of members of a leftist party, the EMEP, staged a demonstration at the US Consulate in Adana in southern Turkey to protest the use of Incirlik Airbase by Americans for 'imperialist' purposes over the past 50 years, weekend papers report. A statement read by the protesters claimed the US wants to use Incirlik for attacks against Iran and Syria, and called for the closure of the airbase. Demonstrators later dispersed peacefully.

**ROK President Visits Turkey:** Visiting South Korean President Roh Moo-Hyun discussed with PM Tayyip Erdogan possible joint investments on Friday, weekend papers report. Erdogan said that Turkey, which is close to the European market, is an attractive country for foreign investments. During a call on Parliamentary Speaker Bulent Arinc later the same day, Moo-Hyun said that the South Koreans would never forget the sacrifice of Turkish soldiers who fought together with Koreans during the Korean War. Arinc pointed to friendly bilateral ties, and noted that Turkish soldiers had died for the freedom of South Korean people.

**Thousands of Turkish Girls Cannot Attend School:** Some 570,000 girls of school age cannot attend schools, according to Monday's "Milliyet." He paper says it is time for Turkey to change this picture. Almost half of those who have no access to schools live in 10 impoverished provinces in southeastern Turkey, where Kurds form a majority of the population.

**Turkish Truck Driver Killed by Roadside Bomb in Iraq:** An unidentified Turkish truck driver was killed by a roadside bomb near Bayji, north of Baghdad, on Saturday, weekend papers report.

EDITORIAL OPINION: Iraq; US-Turkey

"The Rise of Talabani"  
Kamuran Ozbir wrote in the nationalist "Ortadogu" (4/18):  
"The fact that Talabani is now the president of Iraq indicates how much the Iraqi Kurds, who once lived under oppression as a minority, are now on the political rise. The Kurds supported the US-led operation to topple Saddam Hussein in 2003, and now have gained a remarkable political status by having won 25 percent of the Iraqi vote. This election victory provided more political clout to the Kurds than to the Sunni Arabs, who have ruled the country for so many years. . It is important that Talabani is talking about a new democratic and united Iraq. The Kurds used to think about independence, but even then they were aware of the fact that such an idea would not be welcomed by the US, Turkey, Syria, or Iran. Now the Kurds have set a different goal -- a federal Iraq. They are seeking to be as powerful as possible in the new federation. The drafting of the new Iraqi constitution will present them the opportunity to advance toward this goal."

"Ankara Has Gotten the Message"  
Ali H. Aslan wrote from Washington in the Islamist-intellectual "Zaman" (4/18): "There are three main arguments used by Turks to counter claims that Turkey's relationship with the United States is not in trouble. One is to point out the historic relationship between the two countries, going all the way back to the Korean War. Another is simply to claim that there is no anti-Americanism in Turkey. Finally, there are some who insist that Turkish-Israeli relations are not as bad as they have been described in the public debate. Almost all Turkish officials visiting Washington recently have presented a version of these arguments to their American counterparts. Foreign Ministry Ali Tugan was the most recent visitor, and he was no exception. Yet the Americans, who have been patiently waiting for Ankara to 'get the message,' finally broke out of their diplomatic niceties. They explained the message loud and clear to Tugan. Tugan heard the same same clear message from every American official he met with. . It is certain that he will convey Washington's message to the high levels in Ankara. The message includes Washington's deep concerns about the rise of anti-Semitism and anti-Americanism in Turkey, as well as the rapprochement between Turkey and Iran and Syria. . Turkey must realize the urgent need to repair ties with the US. The initiative must come from Turkey. If Ankara has understood, it can take the first step by making some goodwill gestures, such as giving an immediate response to US requests on Incirlik airbase. By keeping this decision on hold, it appears that Turkey is waiting to see the stance of the US administration stance on the Armenian issue."

EDELMAN